NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Coronado National Forest 300 West Congress Tucson, AZ 85701 www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado



For Immediate Release

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ROMERO FIRE

TUCSON, AZ (May 22, 2006) 4:00 P.M.----- At approximately 4:30 Sunday afternoon, May 21, 2006, a fire was reported in the Romero Canyon area on Forest Service land adjoining Catalina State Park in Tucson, AZ. This fire, burning in the west end of the Santa Catalina Mountains, is currently at 650 acres. Vegetation consists of grasses and heavy brush.

Resources consist of 1 Type 1 helicopter and 1 Type 3 helicopter, 5 Hot Shot crews, 3 Arizona State Department of Corrections hand crews, 3 engines and 3 water tenders. A Type 1 Incident Management Team (Oltrogge) has been ordered.

At this time no structures are threatened. However, Catalina State Park is closed, as is the gate at Ski Valley at the top of Mt. Lemmon. It is recommended that hikers refrain from entering Sabino Basin and the following trails: Marshall Gulch, Samaniego Ridge, Sutherland and the Mt. Lemmon Trail. This is a precautionary measure for their safety.

The heavy winds have been a concern and there is a Red Flag Warning on until 7:00 p.m. tonight. However, the winds have subsided to some degree.

For more information, please visit http://gacc/nifc/swcc, or call the toll free Fire Restriction Hot Line 1-877-864-6985.